

## REMARKS

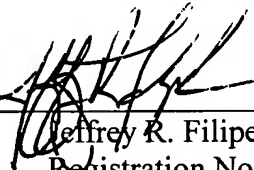
Prior to an examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 25, 26, 27, 52, 53 and 54 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroaki MASUYAMA et al.

By



Jeffrey R. Filipek  
Registration No. 41,471  
Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
April 20, 2006